CLAIMS AMENDMENT

1-31.   (cancelled)

32.   (previously presented): Antibodies useful for immunoassays to detect a peptide which peptide comprises human brain natriuretic peptide of the formula:

Ser-Pro-Lys-Met-Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Arg-Lys-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Ser-Ser-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys-Lys-Val-Leu-Arg-Arg-His,

or a C-terminal amide thereof. (SEQ ID NO: 49)

33-40. (cancelled)

41.   (previously presented): The antibodies of claim 32 which are monoclonal antibodies.

42.   (previously presented): The antibodies of claim 32 which further comprise a label.

43.   (previously presented): A method to perform an immunoassay to detect human brain natriuretic peptide in a sample which method comprises contacting said sample with the antibodies of claim 32 and assessing the ability of said antibodies to immunoreact with one or more components contained in said sample.

44.   (previously presented): A kit for conducting an immunoassay to detect human brain natriuretic peptide which kit comprises the antibodies of claim 32 in containers and reagents capable of recognizing and specifically binding to said peptide or said antibodies in additional containers.

45.   (new): The antibodies of claim 32 that are specifically immunoreactive with human brain natriuretic peptide of SEQ ID NO:49 or with the C-terminal amide thereof.

46.   (new): The antibodies of claim 45 which are monoclonal antibodies.

47.   (new): The antibodies of claim 45 which further comprise a label.

48.   (new): A method to perform an immunoassay to detect human brain natriuretic peptide in a sample which method comprises contacting said sample with the antibodies of claim 45 and assessing the ability of said antibodies to immunoreact with one or more components contained in said sample.

49.   (new): A kit for conducting an immunoassay to detect human brain natriuretic peptide which kit comprises the antibodies of claim 45 in containers and reagents capable of recognizing and specifically binding to said peptide or said antibodies in additional containers.